

# MONTEREY NEWS

MARCH 1989

## TOWN NEWS

### New School Building Approved by Voters

At a Special Town Meeting Wednesday evening, February 15, a crowd of over 150 residents gathered for a final discussion of the pros and cons of a 25 million dollar building and renovation project at Mt. Everett School. The vote of approval in Monterey (107 yes, 59 no) was the closest of the five towns in the school district, two of which voted over 5 to 1 in favor of the project.

Voters were assured by the Project Planning Committee that no debts will be incurred for the project until the district receives a commitment of state aid amounting to at least 63% of eligible project costs. Planning costs are fully reimbursable and will be borrowed ahead of that time.

The cost implication to each Monterey resident is estimated to be about \$1.48 per thousand above one's present rate, for the 20 years' of repayment of the loan.

Tessier Associates Inc., architects for the project, hope to put it out to bid by February 1990, have the ground breaking in April 1990 and have the new school ready to occupy by September 1991.

As for changes and improvements to come about as a result of the project, there will be a new gymnasium for the high school, new playing fields and playgrounds, expanded and upgraded libraries, computer rooms, shop and home economics facilities, larger art and music rooms, better social separation of younger students from the older, as well as more sophisticated circulation of pedestrian traffic.

The plant's total of 205,000 square feet is "the most practical and efficient school complex Tessier has ever seen or read about" and, according to the architects, "will meet every need of the school district for many years to come." To receive state aid the building must be designed to last a minimum of 50 years.

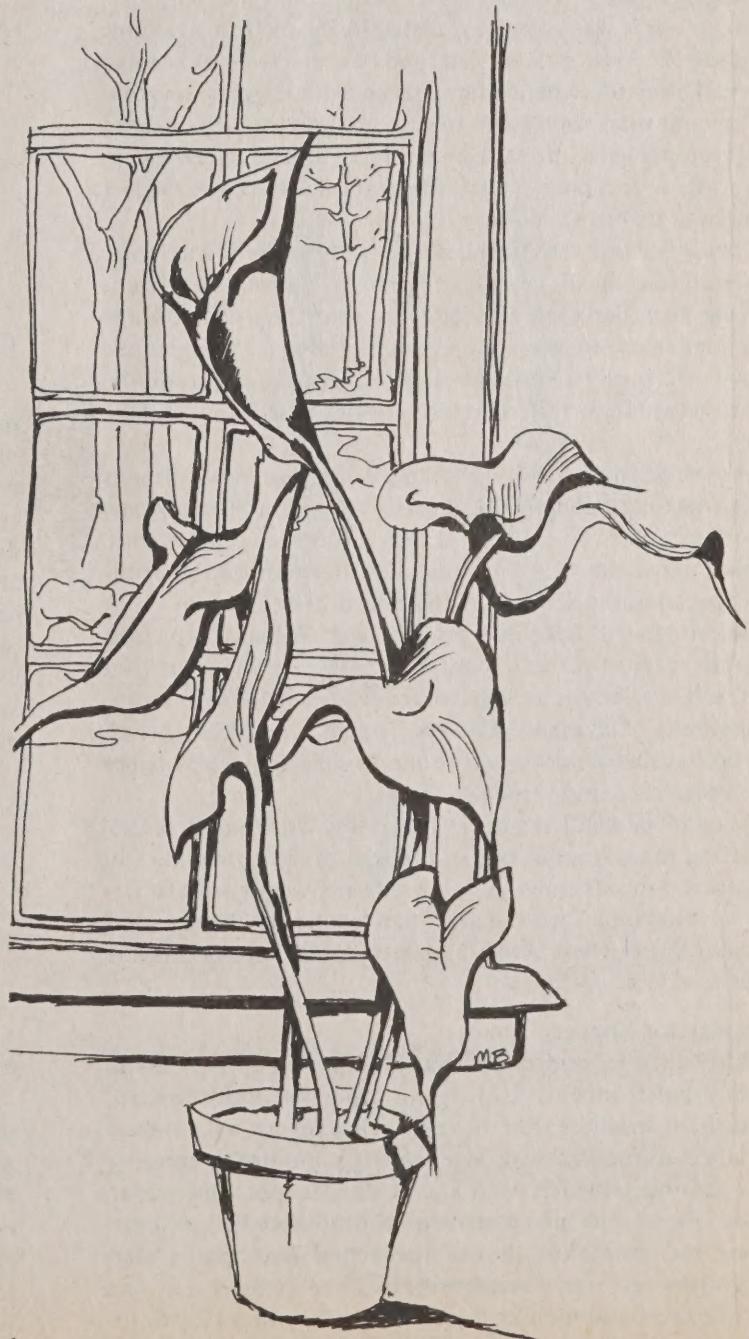
A new energy management system which includes fully insulating the building envelope, a gabled, "R-3 roof system," and a modern boiler system, is expected to reduce heating costs considerably.

The consolidation of educational space into one location, will cut down overall transportation costs as well as general maintenance costs and will enable some consolidation of professional staff, as well.

Communities have been assured that many of the facilities of this most expensive school construction project ever proposed in Berkshire County will be available to the public for meeting rooms and recreational use as well as entertainment via concerts, theatrical productions and art displays. There

are also possibilities for day care centers.

It was suggested by Tessier during discussion of the potential of the building that some spaces be selected as "twelve-month rooms," recognizing that school buildings can't lie fallow for



parts of each year and that some parts of the building can be used as "revenue" producing situations."

Moderator Mark Makuc's announcement of the results of the secret ballot was met with cheers of delight, which were echoed later by each of the other four member towns on a WSBS radio recapitulation of voting results.

The School Planning Committee was commended by many people at the meeting for its diligence and dedication during the four years it took to create the present plan. School Superintendent Tom Consolati, who attended Monterey's meeting, said he felt the approval of the project shows that "we really do care about our children and their future."

#### Other Articles on Special Meeting Warrant

*Article 2:* It was voted to transfer \$403.71 from available funds to pay for tax abatements issued 1982-85.

*Article 3:* It was voted to transfer from available funds the sum of \$155.14 to pay an unpaid bill in the Parks Commission account.

*Article 4:* It was voted to transfer \$4,156.59 from available funds to the Library State Aid fund to correct a bookkeeping error. The error, explained by trustee John Higgins, was that for several years money left over from State Aid to Libraries has been put back into the General Fund instead of being kept in the library account. This authorization will restore the lost money to its proper place.

*Article 5:* It was voted to transfer \$5,000 from the Town Garage Account into the Town Offices Account. The offices account having been depleted, it is believed that the Town Garage Account can spare this sum, which is needed for bringing the Town offices up to State standards in terms of access doors, storm windows, weatherizing, emergency push knobs and the like.

*Article 6:* There was considerable discussion over a request for a vote to prohibit on Lake Buel the operation either of boats or other motorized equipment with motors exceeding 5 h.p. or motorized augers after 12 midnight and before 8 a.m. without special authorization by the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman and Lake Buel resident Matt Williams explained that the reason for this request was that ice fishing augers, jet skis, and boat driven waterskiers are disturbing the early morning serenity of lakeshore dwellers. The 5 h.p. restriction leaves the lake available during early hours to smaller quieter engines like those on fishing trolls.

Matt added that Lake Buel was recently written up in several sporting magazines as one of the best pike fishing lakes in America. Since then, he said, it has been overrun with fishermen drilling holes with augers that "sound like buzz saws."

After lively debate between sportsmen and late sleepers, the vote was 36 yeas, 28 no.

#### Strategy for Slippery Roads

After one car accident on Route 23 in early February left an elderly man from Otis dead and his nephew seriously injured, Rudi Gero, in whose yard the vehicle came to rest, asked fellow members of the Roads & Machinery Committee to consider two possible remedies for a known danger spot. One was to extend the 30 mph limit easterly of the Monterey flats to somewhere near the Makucs' house. The second was to post a "slippery when wet" sign on either side of the curve that more than once has sent automobiles spinning into the yards of the Geros and their neighbors. The committee is considering both sug-

gestions. The icy days of early 1989 have presented some unusual challenges both to motorists and to the Town Highway Department. There is an answering machine in the Town Shed to receive notice of slippery curves and roads transformed in minutes into skating rinks. Town sanders are out continuously during icy rains, but the answering machine is monitored for tips on special situations. Cooperation, ideas, and patience from townspeople can help make the roads safer to travel on.

— Ellen K. Pearson



#### CHURCH NEWS

Lent is such a serious season. Perhaps too serious. Beginning in the deepest recesses of winter, it sets a barren mood for introspection. For centuries the Church has emphasized a six-week period of penitence and self-denial.

Lent is a difficult time for me. True, it starts in winter, but doesn't it lead to springtime and the Easter promise of hope and new life? As I try to place myself in a Lenten mindset I discover that the journey doesn't focus on sinfulness but rather on centeredness. For me, it's a time of seeking and searching: looking to the person of Jesus of Nazareth for clarity, insight and meaning. It's a time for evaluating my life, my motives, my commitment. But most of all it's a time of self-discovery.

Recently I came across a poem entitled "Pearls" by Michael S. Glaser:

*Like oysters, I filter my world  
through such sense as I make of my shell,  
search the wounds of my life  
for pearls—small, misshapen things  
I squeeze out to share with strangers,  
learn how I am different  
and how I might love.*

Lent is an appropriate time to recognize and affirm the wounds which each of us bear. In an age when we avoid pain at all costs, we need to learn that our wounds become the "refiner's fire" for our healing. From our woundedness we can create pearls; precious and priceless jewels to share with one another. Out of the source of our pain we can discover our human identity, the divine center within and the mantle of love we have to offer.

During this wintry, barren season of Lent may you uncover

anew the seeds of self-discovery to center your spirit.

— Grace and Peace,

Cliff Aerie

**Church Notes:** Our worship will move upstairs on Palm Sunday (3/19) . . . . A special Maundy Thursday Service will be held on March 23 at 7:30 p.m. . . . . The sanctuary will open for meditation on Good Friday (3/24) from noon until 3:00 p.m. . . . . Our Easter resurrection celebration will be held on March 26 at 10:00 a.m. . . . . Leonard Weber will be singing at Palm Sunday and Easter with Chris Bakriges offering piano accompaniment.



## BEARTOWN STATE FOREST

Each time I have written about Beartown I have done so with great personal enthusiasm. One of the reasons I have not written in recent months is because of my personal discouragement and struggle to maintain that enthusiasm.

We have all listened to the debate over the Commonwealth's budget deficit and the struggle to balance that budget while still providing the services that we have become accustomed to. This struggle, to provide quality services with fewer resources, has always been a way of life with the Division of Forests and Parks. Inherent in the societal order of things is the fact that recreation and natural areas fall well below public health and safety, education, etc., in budget allocations. But there is a discouraging new twist to this situation.

Many of you have probably heard of the proposed increases in user fees at the State Forests and Parks. On February 13 we were personally informed by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Management that the new fees are in effect. Parking at Benedict Pond, for example, between Memorial Day and Labor Day will be \$5.00 per vehicle, up from \$3.00. An entire fee schedule will be published in April's edition of the *Monterey News*, by which time I will be more sure of all the figures. It is projected that with the new fees the Division of Forests and Parks will generate ten to eleven million dollars in the coming fiscal year. That revenue has in the past kept this Agency afloat.

Some years ago the legislature passed a bill allowing the Division of Forests and Parks to retain 30% of its annual revenues to be used for maintenance and equipment only. So, although our staffing levels have not been improved, our ability to do a better job, with improved equipment and materials, was greatly enhanced. A user fee increase would normally be seen by this Agency as a logical way to keep pace with the maintenance needs of its 260,000+ acres. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case.

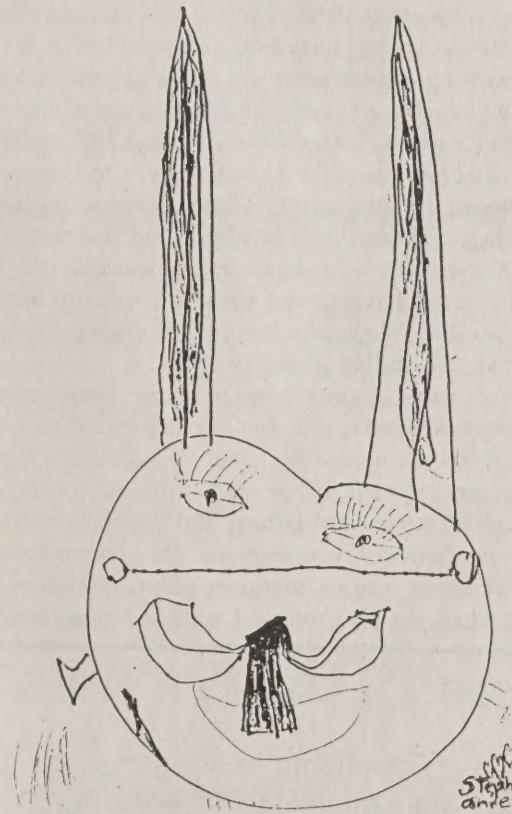
The budget of the entire Department of Environmental Management, of which the Division of Forests and Parks is but a part, comprises roughly 1/3 of 1% of the entire State budget, the proverbial drop in the bucket. The Legislature has, however, decided that our retained revenue will be capped (at pre-1989 levels) and that the increased revenue generated from

the higher user fees will not go back into the maintenance of the Forest and Park system but rather into the General Fund. The icing on that cake is the additional elimination of 1 million dollars from this 1/3 of 1% budget which may virtually eliminate our seasonal staffing. Regional plans have already been drafted for the closing of seasonal recreation areas.

Why am I discouraged? Aside from all the broader implications of the long-term degradation of the State's outdoor recreation facilities, I am just plain not looking forward to a clientele taking out their anger on us (I wonder if they sell protective headgear in Forest Green?). In the past, many people have commented to me that they do not mind paying a user fee knowing that the area indirectly benefits from it. A user fee is just that and should go toward enhancing the quality of the service that is being paid for. What is the rationale now for the higher fee?

Perhaps I make my job more difficult by describing this scenario to you, for the collection of fees is a responsibility that we must still dutifully perform. Regardless, it is something that you should know, for the burden of this inequity rests with us all.

— Thomas W. O'Brien  
Supervisor

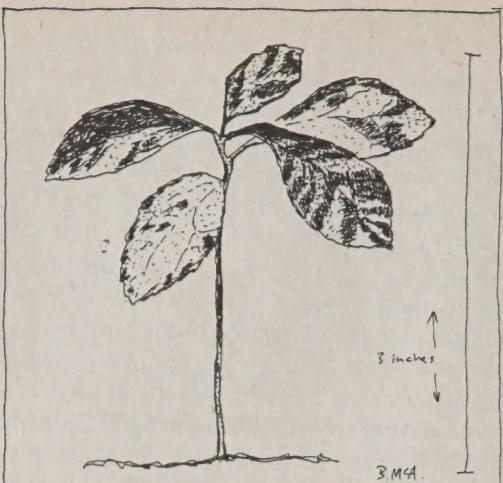


## TWO HAIKU

*A weed filled garden—  
its identity now lost  
but essence remains.*

*A tattered scarecrow  
in a deserted garden—  
nest built from remnants.*

— Ann M. LaVallee



## OPEN WINTER MAKES HAPPY FORAGERS

I've heard more complaining this winter than in any other I can remember. We sure do miss the snow, and some of us go so far as to say we miss the cold. (I mean real, below-zero cold.) We want to play in the snow, look at the snow, hide our dormant yards and gardens in snow. We are sick of pretending that good skating this winter has compensated for the lack of snow, especially since a lot of people have lost track of their skates over the years and have been reluctant to run out and buy new ones when it *could* snow any time and cover up the ice.

One group which is not sorry about the open winter is the foragers. Wild turkeys, for instance, can scratch through very deep snow to find acorns and leftover field corn, but life is much easier for them if they don't have to do this. Even young turkeys with short legs and small feet can find food this winter.

I guess the evening grosbeaks are having a nice winter north of here because we haven't seen a single one at our feeder. I miss them, but I can't begrudge them easy foraging. Wherever they are, they are finding plenty to eat.

We have a couple of small foragers in our family who are enjoying the open winter, too. Their favorite wild food, summer or winter, is a low-growing shrub called teaberry, birchberry, boxberry, spiceberry, ground holly, or wintergreen. They are careful students of botany and know the habitat of *Gaultheria procumbens* (wintergreen). They remember every place they have ever seen a wintergreen plant and clamor to go back there whenever we propose a walk in the woods.

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Anyone who has eaten wintergreen, either from the plant or in the Lifesavers, will understand this lively interest on the part of our small children. It is delicious, sweet, and smells lovely and fresh. For our children, wintergreen is candy of the woods, and they have a sharp eye for the dark, glossy leaves and bright red berries.

The volatile oil of wintergreen can be extracted by distillation using a steam still. You chop up leaves, heat them with perforated steam pipes, then collect the steam and let it cool. The "condensate" separates into an aqueous and an oily layer, the oily one being methyl salicylate.

This is what my daughters love so much. They have no steam still, but they like to chew the leaves and swallow the aqueous and the oily layers directly, spitting out the leathery leaves like old gum when the flavor is gone. (We encourage them to do this outside.)

In the absence of shady north temperate woods and sharp-eyed wintergreen aficionados, you can produce methyl salicylate,  $C_6H_4OHCOOH_3$ , in the laboratory. It is used in perfumes, insecticides, polishes, and anything else that needs to smell nice. It is also used in things that need to taste nice, such as candy, gum, and "pharmaceutical preparations," or medicines which would otherwise taste awful.

Wintergreen flavoring is photoluminescent, which means (according to my *Dictionary of Science*) it can absorb light of high frequency, which is not visible to the human eye, and re-emit it in "installments of discrete lower frequencies." This effect can be seen in a dark room or closet if you chomp on wintergreen Lifesavers with your mouth open (bad manners, yes, but it's okay for science and it's fun). Light of very high, not-visible frequency is produced by smashing up sugar crystals. The wintergreen absorbs this, shifts it to visible light, and emits it. The more wintergreen in a given Lifesaver, the more sparks you or someone else will see jumping out of your mouth in a dark room.

So if you are bored with the open winter, longing for the special effects of snowmobiles, snowballs, and snowmen; if you gaze sorrowfully at your cross-country skis and can't think of a thing to do in your spare time, this could be your chance to join the happy foragers and get into volatile oils and crunchy light-shows.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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## PERSONAL NOTES

Hearty congratulations to elated grandparents Joe and Brenda Menker of Hupi Road, whose grandson, Devin Michael, was born January 23 to Drs. Craig and Jill Menker. Devin made his first trip to Monterey over Presidents' Weekend!

And congratulations times two to grandparents Joel and Kathy Curtis of Beartown Road. Twin boys were born February 12 in New York City to daughter Anita and Paul Gilesta. Joseph Nathan and Zev Gonzala are home and doing just fine. Their ten-month-old cousin Madeline lives only a block away, and their big first meeting is planned shortly.

Hats off to Douglas Brown, who had his first solo flight on February 6. Doug, son of Maryellen Brown of Hupi Road, is a first-year student at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne. That's exciting, Doug!

Be sure to take a peek if you can at the February issue of *House and Garden*, which shows some Monterey Masonry work. Mark Mendel reports the photos are of a job they did in Connecticut.

Congratulations to Jim Gauthier, who has completed his course work at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst for his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Interior Design. Jim presented his final project, with flair, to a large audience of professors, family and friends at U. Mass on February 10. Jim is the son of Bob and Barbara Gauthier, Main Road.

Hearty Congratulations to Natasha Grotz, who was selected to compete in the Junior I Olympics held at Mount Snow, VT, through February 19. Tasha, who is attending Waterville Valley Academy in New Hampshire for the winter term, was selected by the state of New Hampshire as one of 12 women competing in the downhill, and one of 15 in the super giant slalom. Her selection was based on race results earlier in the season which included winning the NH Downhill Qualifier at Attitash, NH, and placing third in the Super G at Sugarloaf, Maine. Great job, Tasha! And, we must mention among Tasha's many talents, she was the recipient of the Golden Sponge Award at the Academy for exceptional kitchen duty! This award entitles her to one day off of her choice. She took her day and enjoyed it free

skiing with sister Michelle and friends, who paid her a visit. Not a bad idea, this Golden Sponge.. Thought some parents might like to use it!

What a pleasure to see so many Monterey students named to the honor roll list for the second quarter at Mt. Everett Regional High School. They are: in Grade 12, High Honors: **Shelby Loder**; Grade 11, High Honors: **Natasha Grotz** and **Anne Makuc**; Grade 10, High Honors **William Thieriot**, and Honors: **Brooke Loder**, and Grade 9, Honors: **Olivia Williams**. Also, in Grade 8, High Honors: **Marta Makuc** and **Michael Ohman**, and Honors: **Christopher Burkhart**, and Grade 7, High Honors: **Erin Sadlowski** and **Meghan Sadlowski**, and Honors: **Rachael Rodgers**, **Gabe Small**, and **Bruce Snow**. Great work, all of you!

Good Luck to **Ellen Pedersen**, who is in Bangladesh for a three-month stay. Ellen is using her degree and nursing experience to "become more aggressive in my pursuit to help the very needy." She would love to hear from any of you:

PO Melunhat Hospital  
Dt. Cox's Bazar  
Bangladesh

Ellen is the daughter of **Alf** and **Lena Pedersen** of Main Road.

Very Happy Birthday Wishes to **Cindy Hebert**, her 30th on January 10, to **Vincent Scutellaro** on January 18, to **Gabe Small**, his 13th on January 24, to **Mike Mielke, Sr.**, the big 40 on February 7, to **Jack Jefferson** and **Lanny Lanoue** on February 14, to **David Gauthier** on February 15, to **Maryellen Brown** on February 16, to **Kimberly Gero** and **James Hall**, their sixth on February 18, to **Maggie Clawson**, also her sixth on February 22, and, to **Randy Gelbard**, happy 30th on March 13, and Happy First Anniversary to you and **Adrienne** that same day!

Thanks so much for your contributions. If you have any little news please jot it down, drop it at the General Store or in the mail to me, Route 23, or give me a call evenings, 528-4519. It's appreciated!

— Stephanie Grotz

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## WHO'S WHO IN MONTEREY

### Michael J. Samborski

You've all seen Mike Samborski driving around town, but probably thought he was "Larry Weaner, Landscaper," as it says on the side of his trucks. "I haven't gotten around to changing the name yet," he says. But more about his business later.

Mike is originally from Milford, Connecticut. He has moved around a lot, but settled here in Monterey in the summer of '83. "I've always liked the woods and mountains, and Monterey is by far the most beautiful place I've ever lived in." He graduated from high school in Lowell, Mass., and from Westfield State College, where he majored in art. He met his wife, Karen, in Westfield, in 1980. They were married the following year. Their son Erik was born in May of '84, and their daughter Sara in April of '88.

When he first settled here in Monterey, Mike accepted the assistant manager position at the Great Barrington Agway. One year and three managers later he grew dissatisfied with that job and sought new employment.

"I've always thought it would be great to make a living growing and selling plants. One day I answered an ad in the *Shoppers Guide*. I met Larry Weaner, who was a landscaper, and was my foreman for the next four years. I finally bought his business in January of 1988. I've held quite a variety of jobs since I was a teenager, but landscaping is the one I most enjoy. Creative landscaping is an art, much like creating a painting, except the canvas is much larger. Colors, shapes, and textures are the essential elements in a beautiful landscape. And being able to watch my ideas and visions materialize is exceptionally rewarding and gives me a sense of accomplishment that I've never experienced in any other profession."

"I always work from blueprints that are unique to each house and, for that matter, unique to each customer. I incorporate my customers' ideas into each design as well as their color and plant preferences. I can't wait for spring to get here so I can start working again!"

*Coming up in Who's Who:* Lewis and Joyce Scheffey, Georgianna O'Connell, who is Monterey's first selectwoman, and Susan Sellew and the goats at Rawson Brook Farm (I'm going to try to get a picture of a newborn goat next month!) There are many interesting people to interview here in Monterey; if you have any suggestions, please give me a call: 528-5829.

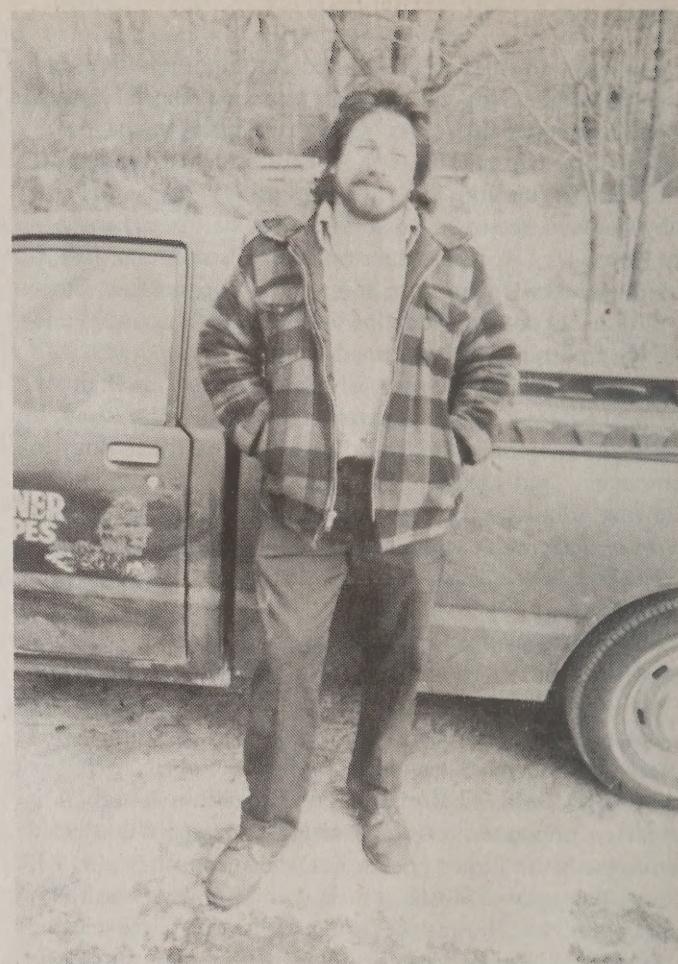
— Jim Laffey

### PUSSY WILLOW

*Little pussy willow*

*Through the winter's cold you slept.  
When you felt the warm spring sunshine  
From your shell you crept.  
You laughed as the brook leapt with joy  
When the ice began to break;  
Then a redwing called to welcome spring  
And you were wide awake.*

— Eleanor Kimberley



Mike Samborski

JIM LAFFEY



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## PLANNING BOARD REPORT

The Planning Board will hold a public hearing in late March, date, time and place to be posted in town and published in the *Courier*. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss with all who are interested a set of proposed changes and amendments to the zoning by-laws. In addition to a number of minor clarifications, definitions, and changes, the Board proposes new regulations in these important areas:

- 1) establishment of a rural residential/conservation district, a zone in which lots would be required to have four acres and 300 feet of frontage, minimum.
- 2) special permit processes for major building projects in flood plains, and in or within 100 feet of wetlands.
- 3) increased acreage requirements for lakeshore lots on steep slopes.
- 4) increased setbacks from streams and ponds for septic systems and dwellings.
- 5) erosion and sedimentation control guidelines.
- 6) driveway permit standards.
- 7) common driveways, by special permit, for no more than three dwellings.

Copies of the proposed changes and amendments will be available at the Town offices.

— Joe Baker

## LAKE GARFIELD ASSOCIATION

At the direction of the Conservation Commission and the selectmen the lake level this year was lowered to only about four feet. On February 14 the gates were closed, and the level has commenced to rise although very slowly due to the lack of snow cover and runoff.

There were several meetings between the Conservation Commission, the selectmen and the Lake Garfield Association concerning the environmental effects of drawdown and, as a result, the firm, Associated Environmental Associates of West Springfield, has submitted a proposal to the selectmen to study the drawdown. Hopefully, the selectmen will submit this proposal to the voters at a Town Meeting to initiate the study.

The two committees, Lake Management and Nomination, should be prepared to make a report at our next meeting to be held on Saturday, June 24, at the dam on Beartown Road.

Please remember to pay your 1989 dues (\$10) to the Lake Garfield Association, Monterey. All who are interested in being members will be welcome.

Have a happy, healthy spring.

— Dean P. Amidon, President



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## ARTS COUNCIL NEWS

The Monterey Arts Council, together with the Berkshire Public Theatre, is offering full scholarships for two young people ages 8 to 15 to attend the Berkshire Theatre's *Summer Youth Institute* for 1989. One program will begin on Tuesday, July 5, and run through Friday, July 29. The second program will start on Monday, August 1, and run through Friday, August 26. Hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Youth Institute's program is aimed at "... freeing inhibitions and imagination-stretching" ... through specialized workshops in creative movement, music, stage combat, visual arts, and technical theater. It culminates with a fully staged play at the Berkshire Public Theatre.

Field trips to some of Berkshire County's cultural facilities such as The Berkshire Theatre Festival, Jacob's Pillow, and Shakespeare and Company, plus recreational games and swimming, are included in the Institute's programs.

For more information call Arts Council members:

Michael Marcus ..... 528-4115  
Frank D'Amato ..... 528-3723  
Donna Bartell ..... 528-5874

or

Noel Hanger ..... 445-4680  
Youth Institute Artistic Director,  
The Berkshire Public Theatre.

*Candidates for the scholarships must contact the Monterey Arts Council by April 15, 1989.* If more than two individuals apply the recipients of the scholarships will be determined by lottery.

The Arts Council also wishes to make known that the application forms for The Massachusetts Arts Lottery Council spring funding cycle are now available at the Town office. *These are new and revised forms; please read all instructions carefully!* For more information contact any of the Arts Council members listed above, or write: Monterey Arts Council, P. O. Box 100, Monterey, MA 01245.

**Deadline for all M. A. L. C. and P. A. S. S. applications is March 15, 1989!**

Finally, the Arts Council will begin considering ideas and proposals for some sort of art program for the summer of 1989 at its next regularly scheduled meeting to be held *Tuesday evening, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Room of the United Church of Christ*. There is a feeling on the part of the membership that this year's activities should be centered in town, and we are hoping for input and help from the old "I Love Monterey" crowd ... among others.

— Frank D'Amato

## EASTER MORNING

*Holy thoughts and holy ways  
Bring us to this day of praise  
May God bless the things you do  
— And especially bless YOU.*

— Sue Moody



1958: Rob and Ron Kimberley, with General in the shafts

ELEANOR KIMBERLEY

## SUGARING IN MONTEREY



1984: Gould Farm buckets

SUSAN McALLESTER



1982: Tapping. Bonner McAllester and Joe Baker of Monterey Maple

SUSAN McALLESTER

## SAP NEWS

The sap news at Lowland Farm isn't that good this year. We have decided not to tap our maple trees because of last year's damage done by pear thrips. Massachusetts produces 30,000 to 35,000 gallons of maple syrup per year. Many producers will be tapping fewer trees while some will not tap at all. Testing and research is being done to determine the extent and effects of the insect problem. The pear thrip, which also attacks fruit trees, winters in the ground. In April they emerge from the ground and, as adults, fly up and feed on bud tissue of the trees. The smaller, mishaped or dead leaves are the resulting damage. This reduces the amount of photosynthesis that can take place and therefore weakens the trees.

We will have a complete selection of 1989 syrup in our sugar house on a self-serve basis as always. I have arranged to buy Massachusetts-made Grade A syrup from other producers and will carry it throughout the entire year. We all welcome you to our sugar house this year.

— Roger Tryon  
Berkshire Maple Products  
Lowland Farm

(No syrup will be made for sale this year in Monterey. The big operation at Sunset Farm in Tyringham is not tapping, either. Another contributing factor in the condition of the maples is thought to be acid rain. —Ed.)



SUSAN McALLESTER

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together our journey of faith."*

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the bushes, and the trees.*

*I love the animals that live on it,  
both domestic and wild.*

*I love the birds that fly over it,  
and the fishes that swim in our streams.*

*I love the sunshine that ripens our crops,  
and the dark clouds that bring the rain.*

*I love planting, harvesting, and calving.*

*I love our land.*

*I love the mist on the meadows at dawning,  
and the cows waiting at the gate for milking.*

*I love the cardinal that answers from the  
pine trees*

*when I call the cattle in the morning.*

*I love the freedom we have, to choose our  
own occupation,  
and the know-how that enables us to grow  
extra food for a hungry world.*

*I love our land.*

— Sheldon Fenn, 1980

## MONTEREY'S "WOODBURN BOYS"

The Fenn family came from England to New Haven long ago and then, four generations back, moved up the Farmington River to Otis, Massachusetts. From there Edward Fenn worked at farm managing jobs in Becket, and then in Cheshire. The time came when he and his son, Sheldon, wanted to run their own farm and they bought the Woodburn Farm on Blue Hill Road, Monterey, in 1931. By 1936 they added the neighboring Doncaster place to the Fenn acreage since it appeared the farm was going to support two families. Shel had met Beatrice Terry, from Southfield, when both were presidents of their respective Christian Endeavor groups.

They married in 1937 and worked both on and off the farm in the years that followed. Bea became the long-term receptionist and switchboard operator at *High Fidelity Magazine*, which later became ABC Leisure Magazines, Inc., in Great Barrington. She said, "I went in there to help out for three days and came home twenty-eight years later!" Shel made a career not only of farming but also of service to the Town of Monterey. He was an assessor, animal inspector, first chairman of the Conservation Commission, one of the first members of the Planning Board, a member of the School Building Committee, and is still a member of the Finance Committee. He remembers some exciting moments when the Monterey zoning ordinance, for example, passed by only ten votes, and the Mt. Everett School, the first regional school in Massachusetts, passed by only four votes!

Shel and his father became formal partners in the farm, half and half, in 1943, and in 1950, when Edward developed heart trouble, Shel bought his father's share of the cattle and equipment. This is where the "Woodburn boys" came in. Shel needed extra help, and Peter Brown, the boy next door, "used to hang around, so I put him to work." Peter's enthusiasm for farm work with Shel infected his friend, Peter Erbe; Shel asked them

if they knew of others who might like the pay and something useful to do. For some reason, to work at Woodburn Farm became the thing to do among a good many of Monterey's young people. There were so many who wanted to come that they had to get on a waiting list. Some worked their way in by working a summer without pay just for the chance to show how useful they could be. The reason for this influx, according to Shel, was Bea. "Bea was a mother to the whole bunch, and so they liked it." The farm, itself, was another reason. Its woodlands, brooks, rolling pastures, and views of distant hills were enough to make any heart leap up. Shel's own love for the farm was still another compelling attraction. Under his inspiration, work at Woodburn was not just a summer job but an enlistment in the cause of conservation and the "land ethic" that goes with it.

There was a sense of belonging to a special group. When a new candidate appeared, everyone was consulted as to whether the applicant would fit in. There came to be Woodburn girls, as well, especially on weekends when Bea could use help in the kitchen. The girls were eager to get outside, too, and learn to drive a truck or a tractor and engage in other kinds of farm work. On Saturdays there were delicious noon meals that live on in the memories of Woodburn young people.

There is Woodburn lore about such things as a learning driver who got a truck started and almost couldn't stop it and a certain bees' nest in an apple tree that required a wide detour. There was a garbage route around Lake Buel and the young garbage collectors delighted in surprising their customers with their knowledge of the latest Tanglewood concert, or other cultural events, as they gathered food for the Woodburn pigs. Joanie Brown married a Woodburn boy and raised a second generation of three young devotees. Mike Mielke went on to study forestry at the University of Massachusetts and John Rief now teaches veterinary medicine at Fort Collins, Colorado.

There were many expressions of mutual affection between the young people and the Fenns. As the young people grew up and scattered out across the country, and across the world, they kept in touch. Bea knit green socks and sent a pair to every



Wayne Blair, Pete Erbe, Shel Fenn and Rich Knoblock in 1956, taking a breather after sending hay up the chute into the loft of the Woodburn barn.

Woodburn boy, including one who was then in Korea. Shel gave Bea a charm bracelet with thirty names inscribed on metal tags: "Phil A.," "Bobby B.," "Kevin B.," and so on. On the roster are four Browns, three Makucs, three Mielkes, two Bradleys, and two Erbes. Some of the young people were local, and some were summer residents.

In the summer of 1977, Shel had an intestinal operation and, a few years later, a leg amputation, so the operation of Woodburn Farm had to enter a new phase. Bea retired in 1981; she had a heart attack that year from which she never fully recovered, and she died in June, 1986. Shel had farmed at Gould Farm from 1956-1966, and now the big farm, "just over the fence," reciprocated by helping at Woodburn. The Makucs still help and Fred Hastedt helps in the summer. And the "old" Woodburn boys return, often with their children, who want to see the farm they've heard so much about.

In October, 1988, Woodburn Farm was accepted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the Agricultural Preservation and Restriction program. The state has undertaken to buy the development rights of the farm for about a quarter of its assessed value of \$820,000. In an unprecedented action, concerned Montereyans raised \$25,000 as evidence of community support. With Pete Brown and Bob Annelli, another next-door neighbor, Shel is setting up a trust to safeguard the farm that means so much to them and all Woodburn boys.

Recently, Shel gathered together the poems he has written since 1931. He printed them in a handsome booklet, beautifully illustrated by MaryEllen J. O'Brien. It is a book of country poems that, as Shel says, "brings it all together." It is dedicated to Bea and intended for all the young people who still hold the farm in such affection. The poems are about deer, brooks, cows, neighbors, wild birds, flowers, and the healing influence of solitude in the woods.

— David P. McAllester

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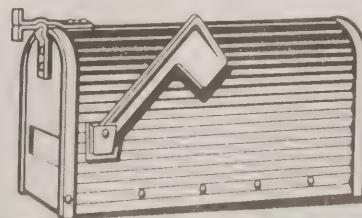
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### To the Editor:

*On the Road in Mexico:* Mazatlan, Sinaloa ("Place of the Deer"), is a take-it-easy town of 350,000 people. Tourists come here to have fun: fishing, swimming, hunting, waterskiing, or just relaxing. It is a port of call for cruise ships, cargo vessels, the ferry to La Paz, and 400 commercial and sport boats. There is a little bit of smog, but not like the eye-tearing, coughing air pollution of Mexico City.

Our motorhomes are nestled in among the coconut palms. The Christmas holidays had lots of fireworks. I had my annual wine party in my patio, amidst the Mexican straw hats and wreaths. Under my little lighted tree, Mexican figures of the Holy Family stood guard. The pot-luck Christmas dinner even included turkey and stuffing....

We eat well. Veggies are wonderful, fresh and sweet. We can buy all sorts of strange things: jacinos taste like water-chestnuts, cooked cactus are like the finest kind of squash. Papayas come in all sizes and they are *so* good. I found a little place downtown that sold whole chickens, roasted on a spit over a wood fire. How good that was! When it comes to drinks there is fine Blanc de Zinfandel, Bacardi rum, Kahlua, and vodka, all made in Mexico and very cheap....

Mexican children are well loved, and the families are big. Children of the rich are spoiled, and children of the poor have to work. A little girl of five has a baby tied to her back. Boys five to seven work in the market, packing the food you buy and taking it out to the car. They expect a tip of 500 pesos (\$.25). I went to the Fiesta yesterday; it was a combination of Rio's Carnival and New Orleans' Mardi Gras. All the floats were full of beautiful young girls and little girl-children, with much makeup and Mexican, Chinese and Egyptian costumes. They were dancing to Latin Music; it was wonderful....

Mexican roads are narrow: two lanes with absolutely no shoulders. If you have trouble, you can't stop, you just hope against hope that a wide spot will come up. Of the 36 rigs coming down to Mazatlan, the motorhomes traveled together, in groups of twelve. We drove with enough space between so that the speeders and busses could rush by. When you have a Mexi-

can in front of you, he puts on his left blinker not because he's going to turn left, but because he is signaling the way is clear to pass him. When people die in a car accident, a shrine is put up just where it happened. The family keeps artificial flowers there. There are lots of shrines!

It is a narrow winding road through the mountains down to Mazatlan. We pulled into our park, spying the waves crashing on the white sand across the street . . . awnings were unfurled, rugs laid down on the cement slabs, chairs and tables unfolded, and dogs and cats tied outside. We were home. When the last of the thirty-six rigs was hooked up, we all took chairs and our drinks to Happy Hour, in front of the rig of Charlie, our Roadmaster. It was warm and lovely. Charlie said, "We all made it; how about that?"

— Joan Reed

### To the Editor:

I went to the Special Town Meeting with a heavy heart and an uncertain mind, having spent a sleepless night trying to sort out facts and feelings and make a couple of decisions. One decision was whether or not to endorse the school bond, and the other whether or not I would take one of my children out of New Marlborough Central and place her in parochial school.

Initially I had many reservations about the school building project. I did come to see the fiscal sense of making a capital investment at this time. But I have grave concerns about the educational environment in New Marlborough Central. Mr. Consolati, in a long conversation the night before the vote, told me that he shared my concerns and assured me that things will improve soon or next year. My children are entitled to a well-managed classroom, and that won't wait.

So it was a tough call for me — vote for the school and give a vote of confidence or vote against the school and express my lack of confidence. As I wrote last month, a new school is not an educational program, and my problem is with what happens in the building, not the building itself.

So I didn't vote for it and I didn't vote against it. The money will be spent, the school will be built, and I will additionally pay tuition to insure that my child gets the basics.

— Leslie Scutellaro



*Monterey*  
by Leonard Weber

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## MONTEREY PARK COMMISSION

### Invitation to Bid

The Town of Monterey, acting through the Park Commission, will accept bids until 7:00 p.m., March 9, 1989, for mowing of parks in Monterey. Minimum wage rates will apply under section 26/27 of M. G. L. Chapter 149. Information is available by calling Dek Tillett, 528-3184 or 229-8765. Bid opening to be 7:00 p.m., March 9, 1989, at the Town of Monterey offices, Monterey, MA. The Park Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

### Spring Dance/Party????

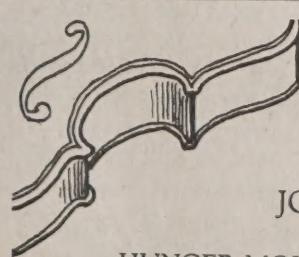
The Park Commission has been thinking of a Spring Dance/Party—a time to get together—get dressed up in our finest—and have a fun time for all. If anyone out there would like to be involved in the planning of same, please come to our meeting on March 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town offices, and we will talk it over.

### The Monterey Town Skating Rink

Jim Thomas, the skating rink "Maintenance Man," and his faithful crew are responsible for daily maintenance and keeping the ice in fine order for this winter's skating in our first successful skating rink. Thanks, Jim and crew! We greatly appreciate their unrelenting efforts, overcoming the problems with weather and plastic liner. Hockey has proved a very popular sport for adults. And—hasn't it been fun dragging out the old skates after 10-20—and—yes!—30 years to find that they do still work. Bouquets also to Linda Gero for organizing the monitors—and to the volunteer monitors who gave their time. It has all been very exciting.

— Dek, Tom, and Fran

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### MONTEREY LIBRARY NOTES

The Monterey Library is really pretty small as libraries go. This is both an advantage and a disadvantage for the library user in town. On the one hand, the atmosphere in the library is very friendly and helpful—the librarian knows each of the patrons and is on the lookout for things which fit in with our interests. It is also much easier, at least a lot of the time, to get new books here which are constantly on loan from the bigger libraries in the area. On the other hand, the small size of our library means that services are necessarily limited—in terms of hours of opening, of the size of the collection and the character of the collection. We are really quite well off, though, as far as the limitations are concerned, because of being part of the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System.

A case in point is the region's bookmobile. It comes here every six weeks or so, and our library staff select books of interest to the local patrons. These books (and records and books on tape, too) are kept in the library until the next time the bookmobile comes, when a new batch takes their place. This is a really advantageous arrangement for the Monterey Library, since we can get books people want to read without having to pay out precious library funds for books of definite but limited appeal. I know that I have found books on the bookmobile shelf that I would never expect to find in the permanent collection but have enjoyed thoroughly. Come in to the Library and tell Mrs. Makuc what sort of thing you are interested in—or come to the bookmobile yourself.

One of the nice things about having a small library is that a regular patron (me, for instance) can really get to know the collection. There are only about 5,000 volumes after all, and browsing through the stacks gets one familiar with what is there. I have my eye on several books to read or reread at some future time when I am less heavily involved with other commitments. One set of books which the library has just received in its entirety (we had only a few before) is *The Dark is Rising*, a set of five books ostensibly for young readers, but really for anyone. The author, Susan Cooper, has worked English folklore and mythology into a story set in contemporary England to make a near-epic tale of the struggle between good and evil—in her terms, the Light and the Dark. I have just reread all five of the books and recommend them highly to anyone who likes that sort of thing. Along the same line, you might like to check out (in both senses) the Prydain books by Lloyd Alexander and the Narnia books by C. S. Lewis. Both of these series have recently been completed, too, by filling in gaps in the collection.

— John Higgins

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## MONTEREY GRANGE NEWS

Monterey Grange No. 291 met February 15 for a regular meeting and a Valentine program. The Grange will now be meeting at 8:00 p.m. The members accepted the revised by-laws, which will now be sent to the State Master for his approval.

The next meeting will be March 1. The program will be under the care of the Women's Activities Committee.

On March 15 there will be a meeting open to the public when a Community Service Award will be presented to Postmaster Walter Parks. Also presented will be a 65-year seal to Eleanor Kimberley and a 55-year seal to Lois Carpenter. Visitors will be welcome.

Fraternally,  
Mary Wallace, Lecturer



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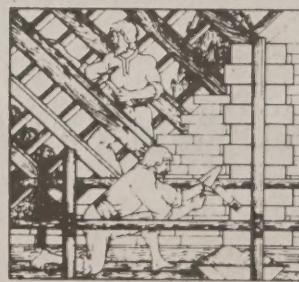
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## ALBERT J. PHOENIX

Albert J. Phoenix, aged 80, of 1732 Tamarisk Court, Vienna, Virginia, died Wednesday, February 22, at Fairfax Hospital, Fairfax, Virginia.

For some years he owned and operated the Monterey General Store and was active on Town committees. When he retired in 1976, he moved to Hampden, Massachusetts, a small community near Springfield. He contributed in many ways to the Boy Scout program there and was a member of St. Mary's Church.

Before coming to Monterey he had worked for General Electric in Schenectady and in Pittsfield. At one time he also managed a clothing store in Concord, New Hampshire. He had attended the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

He leaves his wife of 57 years, Frances Pearson Phoenix, a son, Michael A., of Vienna, Virginia, and three daughters, Dolores Button of Proctorsville, Vermont, Diane Denier of North Lindenhurst, and Sandra Harris of Wilbraham. He also leaves a brother, Marc, of Beth Page, Long Island, and a sister, Yvette Sabourin of Montreal. He and Frances had thirteen grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

There was a funeral Mass on the morning of February 25, at St. Mary's Church in Hampden, and the burial was at the Corashire Cemetery in Monterey. Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders, Western Massachusetts Division, 240 Main Street, Northampton, Massachusetts 01060.

## JOHN T. CAMP II

John Tourtellot Camp II, 68, a summer resident of Monterey since 1932, died Monday evening February 20, at Berkshire Medical Center. Because of ill health, he had been living this winter with his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Peter and Jane Whitestone, in Dalton.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, on January 14, 1921, he was the son of Wilber H. and Margaret Vaughan Camp. He was a graduate of Westfield (NJ) High School and Bucknell University in 1943. He was a Marine veteran of World War II, serving with the 25th Company, 4th Division. He was discharged from the Marine Reserves in 1958 as a captain.

Mr. Camp was manager of the commercial lines department of Travelers Insurance Co., retiring in May 1977. He had lived in Derry, NH, and moved to Delray Beach, FL, after his retirement.

He was a member of Greenock Country Club in Lee and the Delray Beach Club.

He leaves his wife of 43 years, the former Betsey Whitestone; a daughter, Mrs. Jessica C. Duke of Lenox; two sons, John T. Camp III of Glen Rock, NJ, and Army Major James T. Camp of Fort Ord, Calif.; a sister, Mrs. Betty C. Gerlach of Topton, PA, and six grandchildren.



## CALENDAR

**Wednesday, March 8**—Community Dinner, 6:30 in the Church social room. The speaker will be Alice O. Howell who will discuss her new book, *The Dove in the Stone: On Finding the Sacred in the Commonplace*. Enjoy the pot-luck supper and Alice's wit and *joie de vivre*.

**Thursday, March 9**—Bids due on grass mowing for the Parks Commission.

**Thursday, March 9**—Friends of Silence, 7:30 a.m. at the Howell-Andersen home.

**Thursday, March 9**—Planning session for a Park Commission party. Everybody and their ideas are welcome! 7:00 p.m. in Town offices.

**Saturday, March 11**—Square and Contra Dance, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, MA. 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by Joe Baker, caller; music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults, \$4, children, \$1, to dance until intermission. Information: 413-528-9385, or 518-329-7578.

**Wednesday, March 15**—Grange awards to Walter Parks, Eleanor Kimberley, and Lois Carpenter. 8:00 p.m. at the Grange Hall. All are welcome.

**Sunday, March 19**—“I Still Love Monterey Day,” a planning meeting for a celebration next summer, 2:00 p.m. in the church Social Room. Information: 528-4257 and 528-5874.

**Tuesday, March 21**—Arts Council meeting to discuss ideas and proposals for the summer program. 7:30 p.m. in church Social Room; we need your input to make this a truly memorable summer!

**Wednesday, March 22**—Pick up daffodils that you have ordered for the benefit of the American Cancer Society, at the General Store.

**Saturday, March 25**—5th ANNUAL MAPLE SUGAR MOON DANCE. Square and Contra-dance party at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, MA. Guest Caller, Pat Rust, with Mountain Laurel and Joe Baker. Special intermission entertainment by Grian Salomon and the Ivy Vine Players (Puppet Show); also environmental action dialogue as Auntie Acid meets George B. to discuss acid rain and maple syrup. 8:00-12:00 p.m. Adults \$6, children \$2.50. Admission includes homemade ice-cream, cookies, cake, and coffee, tea, cider. Information: 413-528-9385, or 518-329-7578. Beginners and children are welcome!

**Late March**—Be on the lookout for the date of the Public Hearing of the Planning Board, mentioned in their report in this issue.



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## CONSERVATION COMMISSION NEWS

The Conservation Commission met February 13 for its regular monthly meeting and to hold a public hearing for the proposed boat ramp at the Town Beach. The Park Commission, Massachusetts Public Access Board, and Division of Fisheries have drawn up a plan for removable concrete pads to be installed below the high-water line. These could be removed during the swimming season, when the boat ramp will be closed.

The Commission asked the selectmen to have the Lake Garfield dam gate closed down right away. Because of the dry winter, the water has continued to drop well below the three-foot level stated in the Order of Conditions for the drawdown. The level has been poorly regulated, and Lake Garfield Association members were present at this February meeting to express their concern that with little or no spring run-off, the lake may not fill up in time for summer recreational use.

The next meeting will be March 13, 7:30 p.m., downstairs in the Grange.

— Bonner J. McAllister

## AD RATES

One-inch classified ads (1" x 3½") .....	\$ 2.50
Two-inch business cards (2" x 3½") .....	5.00
Three-inch ad (3" x 3½") .....	7.50
Four-inch ad (4" x 3½") .....	10.00

Back cover ads are double the above prices. No classifieds on the back cover. Copy should reach the editor by the 20th of the month before publication. In general, we cannot run letters more than one column in length.

## DAFFODILS FOR CANCER

Don't forget to pick up the daffodils you ordered to benefit the American Cancer Society, at the Monterey Store on March 22. If you haven't ordered any, there might be still time to get your order in. Call Fran Amidon, 528-1233. They are \$4.00 for a bunch of ten. I'd like to thank Maynard Forbes and the "girls" at the store for always being so helpful in storing, collecting payments and passing them out for me every year! Also thanks to Maynard for again supplying Milly with enough to pass out to the elderly in town.

— Fran Amidon  
"Daffyil Lady"



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